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## **Community Builder Awards Recognize Businesses and Job Seekers**

### ***Adult and youth achievements highlight awards ceremony***

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** – The work2future nonprofit organization recently recognized local adult and youth job seekers who have overcome career challenges by participating in training and education programs.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual work2future Community Builder Awards recognized local businesses and community leaders for creating job opportunities and supporting the development of the regional workforce.

“The work2future program has been outstanding as it brings businesses, government, and non-profits together to meet our community’s workforce challenges,” said San José Councilmember Johnny Khamis. “The organization has been instrumental in helping local residents get jobs.”

More than 4,000 job seekers and 250 businesses currently receive human resources assistance from work2future, including training, job-seeking skills, and placement services.

“This is my favorite event of the year,” said Joe Flynn, chair of the work2future board. “This is our opportunity to celebrate the collaborative efforts by our employers, partners, and employees who are successfully getting displaced workers back into the workforce.”

“The work2future program helps thousands of jobseekers get back on their feet and on their way to a new career,” said Jeff Ruster, executive director of work2future. “We are changing lives for the better, everyday.”

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### **Awards and Recipients**

**Outstanding Partner Awards** included eBay, Silicon Valley Talent Partnership, and VTA Outreach. eBay was recognized for connecting the work2future Foundation with non-profit training and for creating a work2future summer youth employment application as part of a PayPal Hackathon. Others included Silicon Valley Talent Partnership for business growth initiatives and VTA Outreach for contributing to the launch of a homeless employment initiative.

**Business Partnership Awards** went to Target, Bank of America, and John Morrell Food Group for helping work2future's clients become self-supporting, employed members of the community. "We do this because it is the right thing to do for our community," said Target District Manager Benny Boveda. "We also like the Summer Youth Program—sign us up!"

**Adult Job-Seeker Award** went to Tye Mason who secured employment in less than 30 days in the work2future program when he was laid off from his company of more than 30 years. "I had no idea what to do until I came to work2future," said Mason. "The resume writing and interview coaching workshops really got me back on my feet and helped me secure a great position."

**Project Management and Marketing and Entrepreneurship Awards** had two standout recipients. Monica Frazier received the Project Management Award by excelling in work2future's cohort training at UCSC extension. She is now employed at Intel. Jennifer Keltner was recognized for Marketing and Entrepreneurship training and is excited about starting a business.

**Youth Job-Seeker Awards** are given to participants who show a big change in attitude, dedication to lifelong learning, and determination to attain goals and demonstrate the ability to overcome barriers to employment.

- Cinthia Larios is a high school senior who is attending UCLA in the fall, participated in Bank of America's Internship Program through work2future. She has a full-time job waiting for her this summer. "Bank of America and work2future have opened a lot of doors for me," she said. The first in her family to attend college, Larios commented, "I hope at UCLA I'll impact others as work2future has me."
- Despite overcoming significant challenges, such as an almost two-hour bus ride to attend class, Laudemer Semsem received work2future award certificates. Semsem was promoted to team leader the first month after employment. Other youth awardees include Julissa Barron who applied to UC Berkeley in computer engineering after an internship with Silicon Valley Talent Partnership, and Jonathan O. Avila Velasquez who is now completing an internship at Facebook.

### **ABOUT WORK2FUTURE**

work2future works closely with employers, job seekers, and partners to foster a skilled regional workforce that is able to stay competitive and satisfy employers' needs in a rapidly changing environment. The organization offers a range of services for individuals seeking retraining and reemployment, and also for regional employers needing human resource solutions. work2future operates Job Centers in San José, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy to implement the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. While administered by the City of San José, work2future also provides workforce development services in the cities of Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, Los Altos Hills, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. For more information, visit [www.work2future.biz](http://www.work2future.biz).

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**ABOUT SAN JOSE'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The San José Office of Economic Development catalyzes job and revenue growth, assists business success, connects employers with trained workers, and enhances cultural amenities. For more information, visit [www.sjeconomy.com](http://www.sjeconomy.com).

**ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE**

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San José has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San José stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley - the world's leading center of innovation. The city is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the U.S. and is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, to work and to live. For more information, visit, [www.sanjosca.gov](http://www.sanjosca.gov).

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